1: Krasheninnikov N-S (1736-48) 1764 Kamchadal

136 rity in killing of deer, which they practiſe in this manner:—They climb up ſome tree, carrying with them a parcel of ſuch moſs as the deer uſe to eat. This they let fall from the tree, and if the deer [1]eat it, they throw themſelves down upon his back; then faſtening themſelves between the horns, they tear out his eyes, and give him ſo much pain, that the miſerable animal, to put an end to his torment, or if poſſible to free himſelf from the cauſe of it by deſtroying his enemy, ſtrikes his head againſt the trees, which generally kills him. No ſooner is he brought down than the glutton divides his fleſh carefully, and hides it in the earth, to ſave it from being ſeized by any other creature; and never eats a bellyful before he has done this. In the ſame manner, upon the river *Lena*, they deſtroy horſes. They are eaſily tamed, and are capable of learning ſeveral tricks. It has been ſaid, but we never heard it aſcertained, that they carry their gluttony to ſuch a degree as to be obliged to relieve themſelves by ſqueezing their over-ſwoln bodies between two trees to unburthen their bellies of the inſufferable load. Thoſe that are tamed are not ſo voracious; but perhaps theſe animals are not alike in all countries.

Bears and wolves are ſo numerous here, that they fill the woods and fields like cattle; the bears in ſummer, and the
136 wolves in winter. The bears of *Kamtſchatka* are neither large
752 nor fierce, and never fall upon people, unleſs they find them aſleep; and then they ſeldom kill any one outright, but moſt commonly tear the ſcalp from the back part of the head; and, when fiercer than ordinary, tear off ſome of the fleſhy parts, but never eat them. The people who have been thus wounded, are called *Dranki*, and are frequently to be met with. It is remarked here, that the bears never hurt women; but, in the ſummer, go about with them like tame animals, „eſpecially

1 [Original torn. Probably "comes to."

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especially when they gather berries. Sometimes, indeed, the bears eat up the berries which the women have gathered, and this is the only injury they do them.

In the season, when the fish enter the mouths of the rivers in vast shoals, great numbers of bears come down from the hills, and settle in proper places for catching them; which they do in such plenty, that they only eat and suck the bones of the heads, neglecting the bodies; but when this plenty is past, they are glad to gnaw the bones which they formerly despised. They frequently steal fish from the fishing huts of the Cossacks, although there is always a woman left to watch them. To her indeed they never do any hurt, satisfying themselves with what fish they can find.

Before the introduction of fire-arms, they used several devices for killing the bears. Cutting several billets of wood, they stop up the mouth of the den with them, which the bear draws in that his passage may not be shut up. This they continue until he is so straitened in his den that he cannot turn himself; then they dig down from above, and kill him with their spears. The *Koreki*, in order to catch the bears, seek out some tree that is crooked above, upon which they fasten a snare, and behind it place some proper bait; which the bear endeavouring to seize is held fast by the head or the paw. They place heavy logs of wood, in such a manner, that they will fall with the least touch and crush them. Another method is to lay a board driven full of iron hooks in the bear's tract, and near to that they place something that easily falls down; this frightening the bear by its fall, he runs upon the board with greater force; and finding first one fore paw wounded and seized by the hooks, he endeavours to free himself by beating the board with the other; thus both being fixed, he rests on his hinder legs, which causes the board to rise before his eyes,